

Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. This is the successor bill to H.R. 2966 and H.R. 3573 which we introduced in the 106th Congress.

Madam Speaker, the United States is the greatest military power in the world. We could never have achieved such superiority without the millions of Americans who risked all to serve this great country. These patriots put the security of home and family on the line to defend the freedoms of all Americans. We do not hesitate to ask American men and women to make military service a career. And what do they ask for in return? All they ask is that the promises made when they entered the service are fulfilled when they retire.

Americans who agreed to serve a military career, at least 20 years, to protect our democracy were promised lifetime health care benefits by recruiters. But for many, the promised health care was not delivered. The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act would restore adequate health care to our military retirees by enabling them to elect coverage under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

Last year, Congress responded to overwhelming grassroots support for the Keep Our Promise Act by including portions of the bill in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act. Congress took the historic step of extending TRICARE, the military health care program, to military retirees beyond the age of 65 beginning in FY 2002. Finally, elderly military retirees will be able to keep TRICARE as a supplement to Medicare just like elderly civilian Federal retirees can keep their FEHBP as a supplement to Medicare.

Unfortunately, Congress did not address the pressing health care needs of military retirees under age 65 who must continue coverage under a TRICARE program that is woefully inadequate for many of them. TRICARE essentially offers health care benefits to retirees at military treatment facilities on a space-available basis. That is, they can pay for treatment if there is room for them at a military base. But with downsizing and base closures, access to military health care is difficult. It is impossible for those who cannot travel even short distances. And many retirees who do not live near bases cannot find a civilian doctor who participates in TRICARE. The Promise Act will allow retirees who are not well served by TRICARE to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan.

Madam Speaker, retirees who entered the service prior to June 7, 1956, when the program now known as TRICARE was enacted actually saw much of their promised and earned benefits taken away. Under the Keep Our Promise Act, the United States Government would keep its word to this most elder-

ly group of retirees by paying the full cost of FEHBP enrollment. Military retirees across the country will tell you that this is landmark legislation to fulfill the government's broken promise for which they have been fighting for years. Madam Speaker, when you or I or anyone else buys something on the open market, we are always warned to let the buyer beware. But military recruiters are not salesmen. Recruiters are agents of the United States Government, the American people.

Should Americans doubt their own government? We owe it to our military retirees who were led to believe they would receive lifetime health care that the government will be there for them. Madam Speaker, it is up to Congress to adequately fund TRICARE so it can provide the level of health care we owe our military retirees. And we must make sure that the Defense Department administers TRICARE in a manner consistent with that goal. Right now TRICARE does not properly serve many of our military retirees. They need to be treated fairly and compassionately. This is what the Keep Our Promise Act does.

Passing this bill will let America's military retirees who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf know that we honor and respect them by keeping our word to them. And passing this bill will get the attention of the next generation of Americans who must not be discouraged from military service.

Madam Speaker, we should keep our promise to America's Military retirees. We should pass the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act.

#### VACATING HOUSE RESOLUTION 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the proceedings whereby House Resolution 11 was considered and adopted are vacated since the same resolution had been previously adopted as H. Res. 10.

There was no objection.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2001, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 90 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

The message also announced that a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House to wait

upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

The message also announced that the Secretary inform the House that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

The message also announced that the House of Representatives be notified of the election of ROBERT C. BYRD, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, as President pro tempore.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Member (at the request of Mr. SHOWS) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SHOWS, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHOWS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Saturday, January 6, 2001, at 11 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request to make available previously appropriated emergency funds for the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended; (H. Doc. No. 107-10); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

2. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request to make available previously appropriated emergency funds for the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended; (H. Doc. No. 107-8); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3. A letter from the General Counsel, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards [Docket No. 2000-01] (RIN: 3014-AA25) received December 19, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Regulations implementing

the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended (RIN: 1215-AA99) received December 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia; Post 1996 Rate-of-Progress Plans, One-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstrations and Attainment Date Extension for the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Ozone Nonattainment Area [DC-2025, MD-3064, VA-5052; FRL-6922-9] received December 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation for Public Water Systems; Analytical Methods for List 2 Contaminants; Clarifications to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation [FRL-6920-6] (RIN: 2040-AD58) received December 19, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants from Mobile Sources [AMS-FRL-6924-1] (RIN: 2060-A155) received December 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards and Highway Diesel Fuel Sulfur Control Requirements [AMS-FRL-6923-7] received December 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; One-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration and Attainment Date Extension for the Springfield (Western Massachusetts) Ozone Nonattainment Area [MA069-7205; A-1-FRL-6927-6] received December 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; One-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration and Attainment Date Extension for the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment Area [CT056-7215b; FRL-6924-5] received December 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

11. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Organic Hazardous Air Pollutants From the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and Other Processes Subject to the Negotiated Regulation for Equipment Leaks [AD-FRL-6923-8] (RIN: 2060-AH81) received December 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

12. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 107-6); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

13. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo; (H. Doc. No. 107-5); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

14. A letter from the Director, Office of Enforcement Policy, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Labor Condition Applications and Requirements for Employers Using Nonimmigrants on H-1B Visas in Specialty Occupations and as Fashion Models; Labor Certification Process for Permanent Employment of Aliens in the United States (RIN: 1215-AB09) received December 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

15. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pipeline Safety: Areas Unusually Sensitive to Environmental Damage [Docket No. RSPA-99-5455; Amdt. 195-71] (RIN: 2137-AC34) received December 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

16. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a Proclamation to implement the non-textile/apparel benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of Public Law 106-200); (H. Doc. No. 107-9); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

17. A letter from the the Director, the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting CBO's final sequestration report for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901; (H. Doc. No. 107-7); to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

18. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report concerning Japan's research whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Convention (IWC) conservation program, pursuant to section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, 22 U.S.C. 1978 (the Pelly Amendment); (H. Doc. No. 107-11); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Resources, and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Filed on January 2, 2001]

Mr. TALENT: Committee on Small Business. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Small Business, 106th Congress (Rept. 106-1050). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. Survey of Activities of the House Committee on Rules, 106th Congress (Rept. 106-1051). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEACH:

H.R. 11. A bill to revise the banking and bankruptcy insolvency laws with respect to the termination and netting of financial contracts, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. HAYWORTH):

H.R. 12. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on contributions to individual retirement accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS (for himself and Mr. FOLEY):

H.R. 13. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CONDIT):

H.R. 14. A bill to establish a Bipartisan Commission on Social Security Reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. DEUTSCH, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 15. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide maximum rates of tax on capital gains of 15 percent for individuals and 28 percent for corporations and to index the basis of assets of individuals for purposes of determining gains and losses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 16. A bill to provide a program of national health insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. QUINN, and Mr. CLEMENT):

H.R. 17. A bill to provide assistance to mobilize and support United States communities in carrying out youth development programs that assure that all youth have access to programs and services that build the competencies and character development needed to fully prepare the youth to become adults and effective citizens; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 18. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish additional provisions to combat waste, fraud, and abuse within the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR of Georgia:

H.R. 19. A bill to nullify the effect of certain provisions of various Executive orders;